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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/688,775	10/16/2000	Rick Rowe	IGTECH.0008P	1563

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

ELISCA, PIERRE E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/688,775

Applicant(s)

Rick Rowe et al.

Examiner
Pierre E. EliscaArt Unit
3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01/08/2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 01/08/2002.

2. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Clapper, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,082).**

As per claims 1, and 3-20, Clapper discloses an electronic and mechanical that utilize a voucher and game ticket combination used in the play of a sweepstakes promotional game. The voucher may represent any document, receipt, stamp (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method of issuing a voucher with a remote voucher generation device associated with a gaming system including a gaming machine and a host), the method comprising the steps of:

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creating a data record regarding said voucher for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use, said data record including value is usable at said gaming machine to establish entitlement to play a game (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, voucher dispensing apparatus, specifically wherein it is stated that a bar code is present on the game ticket and as the voucher and game ticket is dispensed, and therefore, the bar code is readable as a value for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use);

generating data regarding a voucher to be printed (see., abstract, col 2, lines 12-17, col 4, lines 10-29);

generating said voucher, said step of generating including the step of printing information regarding said voucher (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-60, please note the dispenser is generating or printing voucher);

issuing said voucher for later presentation at said gaming machine (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, dispenser which dispenses the voucher, and the bar code is readable as a value for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use); and

storing at least a portion of information comprising said data record regarding said voucher at said host (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-60, col 15, lines 41-54, please note that the microprocessor of fig 11 is interpreted as a host, and , specifically col 3, lines 11-16 and lines 53-59).

As per claim 2, Clapper discloses the claimed method, including the steps of accepting said voucher at a gaming machine and verifying (or identifying or comparing) said voucher, said

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verifying step including the step of transmitting first information regarding said voucher from said gaming machine to said host, and transmitting second information said remote voucher generation device to said host (see., col 4, lines 40-60, col 15, lines 41-54, microprocessor or host, col 2, lines 65-67, voucher identifying).

As per claims 21-23, Clapper discloses an electronic and mechanical that utilize a voucher and game ticket combination used in the play of a sweepstakes promotional game. The voucher may represent any document, receipt, stamp (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method of utilizing a voucher to play a game at a gaming machine), the method comprising the steps of:

creating a data record regarding said voucher (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, voucher dispensing apparatus, specifically wherein it is stated that a bar code is present on the game ticket and as the voucher and game ticket is dispensed, and therefore, the bar code is readable as a value for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use);

storing said data record (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-60, col 15, lines 41-54, and specifically col 3, lines 11-16 and lines 53-59

generating data regarding a voucher to be printed (see., abstract, col 2, lines 12-17, col 4, lines 10-29);

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generating said voucher, said step of generating including the step of printing information regarding said voucher (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-60, please note the dispenser is generating or printing voucher);

issuing said voucher at other than said gaming machine (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, dispenser which dispenses the voucher, and the gaming ticket);

accepting said voucher at said gaming machine (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, dispenser which dispenses the voucher, and the bar code is readable as a value for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use);

transmitting information from said gaming machine regarding said voucher for verification using said data record (see., abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that a bar code is present on the game ticket and as the voucher and game ticket is dispensed, and therefore the bar code is readable as voucher verification); and

providing the number of credits associated with said voucher for use by said player at said gaming machine in placing a wager entitling said player to play a game at said gaming machine if said voucher is verified (see., col 3, lines 26-34).

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 01/08/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. NECESSITATED BY AMENDMENT.

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REMARKS

6. In response to claim 1, Applicant argues that Clapper, Jr does not create a data record regarding a voucher and does not disclose vouchers having associated value which may be used to establish entitlement to play a game at a gaming machine. As indicated by the Examiner in the Office action mailed on 10/02/2002, Clapper, Jr discloses a dispenser which dispenses the voucher and the game ticket combination, and therefore, capable of storing data record, and furthermore, Clapper, Jr discloses creating a data record regarding said voucher for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use, said data record including value is usable at said gaming machine to establish entitlement to play a game (see., abstract, col 4, lines 40-50, voucher dispensing apparatus, specifically wherein it is stated that a bar code is present on the game ticket and as the voucher and game ticket is dispensed, and therefore, the bar code is readable as a value for later use in accepting said voucher when presented for use.

In response to claims 9 and 13, Applicant argues that Clapper, Jr does not teach a system where vouchers represent credit which may be used as a wager to play a game. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees because Clapper, Jr discloses a voucher that is dispensed upon introduction of a selected amount of money (or credit), and which voucher will contain voucher indicia enabling the user to use the voucher, e.g. redeem the voucher, for a selected good or service and a game ticket (redeem the voucher or as a wager) to play a game see., col 3, lines 26-34.

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CONCLUSION

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Pierre Eddy Elisca at (703) 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 6:30AM to 5:00PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents or Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

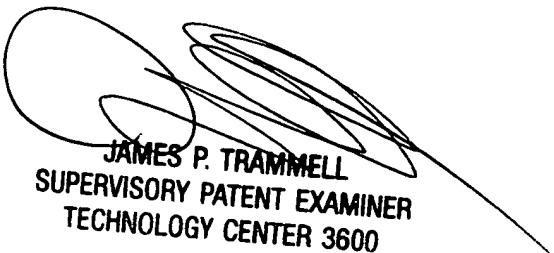
The Official Fax Number For TC-3600 is:

(703) 305-7687

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JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Patent Examiner

March 18, 2003